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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 14 July 1952

SUBJECT DDR Production of 60% K₂O Potash

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF
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ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
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CIRCULATE

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- On 18 April 1952, Hafden, fnu, head of the Mining Products Department in the DDR Ministry of Foreign Trade, told a business acquaintance that the DDR was planning to corner the world market in potash by concentrating on the production of 60% K₂O potash.
- This policy had been established in 1951. However, that year most of the potash produced was still of the relatively low concentration of 35 to 40% K₂O potash, which the DDR had produced ever since the end of the war. Only 6,000 tons of 60% K₂O potash were produced in 1951.
- Now, however, Hafden stated, the DDR had produced no fewer than 100,000 tons of 60% K₂O potash, and of this amount, 25,000 tons had recently been sold.
- Hafden expressed confidence that this outstanding success would cripple the potash trade of the Western world¹, as none of the Western countries produced K₂O potash of a higher concentration than 48 to 52%. It was only the USSR and now the DDR which produced 60% K₂O potash.

50X1-HUM

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comment:

this large scale production of highly concentrated potash would be a particularly hard blow

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